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West Virginia Library Association

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# West Virginia Libraries 1955 Vol.8 No.1

Robert Munn

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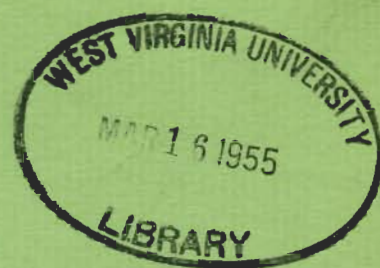
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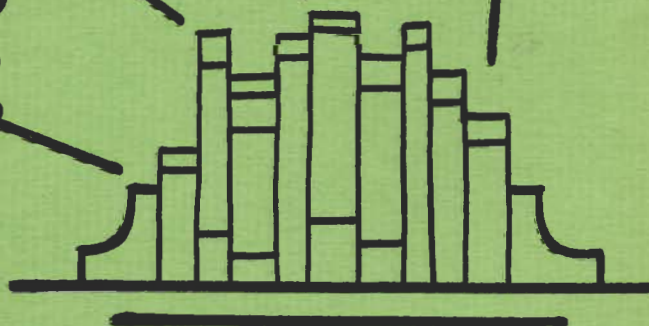
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# West Virginia Libraries



# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume 8  
Number 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

March  
1955

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## COLLECTING WEST VIRGINIANA

By

CHARLES W. SHETLER, CURATOR  
WEST VIRGINIA COLLECTION  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

The collection of West Virginiana in the University Library is organized primarily to serve the University community. An increasing amount of use of the materials, however, is being made by non-university readers both in and outside the State.

A comprehensive acquisition policy prevails for most forms of materials, including archives and manuscripts, books, pamphlets, periodicals, maps, broadsides, newspapers, and government publications. The West Virginia Collection is organized as a subject department in the Library to coordinate the acquisition, processing and servicing of these materials. For purposes of administration the Collection is divided into three sections—Archives and Manuscripts, the West Virginia Room and Photoduplication.

### Manuscripts

The origins of the manuscript collection go back to the early thirties, in the period when many college and university depositories began significant expansions in manuscript and archival activity. While scattered manuscript items were acquired by the Library from the earliest years, it was not until 1930, under the direction of Professor Charles H. Ambler, that a planned acquisitions program was started at West Virginia University.

The collecting activities of Dr. Ambler, carried on later by Professor Festus P. Summers, resulted in the acquisition of a number of rich collections. But more important, perhaps, was their implanting about the State the idea of the importance of the preservation of historical records. "Grand-

father's old letters," the records of defunct business enterprises, and non-current public archives began to be viewed in a new light when their value was pointed out. The splendid generosity of hundreds of donors of collections in the past quarter-century attest to an increasing awareness of the importance of the preservation of manuscripts among persons in all parts of the State.

The manuscript program at West Virginia University was strengthened in 1933 by the creation of a Division of Documents within the Library, and by an act of the Legislature in 1934 which authorized the University to accept State and local government archives.

The Library holds the papers of nine governors of the State, in whole or in part, totaling some 175,000 items. There are personal and business papers of many of the pioneers and leaders in the development of the State, including Stephen B. Elkins, Alston G. Dayton, Henry G. Davis, Ira E. Robinson, Jonathan M. Bennett, Johnson N. Camden, Guy D. and Nathan Goff, Peter G. Van Winkle, and Waitman T. Willey.

Two of the State's outstanding historians are represented in the collections of Charles H. Ambler and James M. Callahan. Manuscripts and other materials of Melville Davisson Post, the author and lawyer, and Dr. I. C. White have been acquired recently.

County court records dating from 1736 have been transferred to the Collection from fifteen counties. These

total well over a million pieces, including suit papers, wills, estate appraisals, deeds, etc. Included in the court record collection are some 4,000 manuscript and typescript county record books. There are indexes available to many of the court papers, as well as a finding guide to the bound volumes.

#### Over Two Million Pieces

An archival or manuscript agency which deals with public records sooner or later reaches an impasse in attempting to describe the size of its holdings. Institutional records, both private and public, do not lend themselves to piece-by-piece count because of their bulk. And there is no general agreement on the unit of measurement in records description. A fair, calculated estimate of our archival and manuscript holdings is something over 2½ million pieces, in some 725 separate accessions. These are housed in 5,000 document boxes measuring 5x10x12 or 15 inches. The familiar green, cloth-covered, hinged lid cases that were standard equipment for so many years have given way here, as in many depositories, to the less elegant but more utilitarian Fiberdex metal edged cases, made by the Hollinger Corporation, Arlington, Virginia. These cost between 50 and 60 cents each in the present market, depending on the quantity purchased, and there is no indication that paper will cost less in the future than at present, even when it comes in the form of a box.

The cataloged W (West Virginia) collection of books, state documents, periodicals and theses number some 6,000 titles. A central collection of circulating W materials is located on the fifth stack level. Immediately above this level, is the West Virginia Room. Here a non-circulating reference collection is being assembled for the study of West Virginia.

Located also in the West Virginia Room is a clipping collection, fed daily from Charleston, Wheeling, Morgantown, and the University student newspaper. A pamphlet collection of State publications, and reports and monographs of businesses, institutions, and societies in the State, is also serviced in the West Virginia Room.

Telephone directories of the major phone companies are received, and through an arrangement with the R.L. Polk & Co. and the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, we are given all W. Va. city directories as they are replaced by later editions in the Chamber's files.

An attempt is made to acquire all State publications. When viewed as a game of wits, one may keep his sanity and enjoy the pursuit of this elusive prey. But we have found that this phase of acquisitions takes an inordinate amount of blood, sweat, and tearing of hair—despite the mandatory document distribution act passed by the 1953 Legislature.

#### Photographic Services

Because the great bulk of photographic services in the Library is with West Virginia materials, this section is administered by the West Virginia Collection. Microfilm, photostat, a Contura camera, and photostatic enlargements of microfilm are available to all libraries and persons engaged in scholarly research.

A continuing program of microfilming important newspapers is carried out. The Library has filmed complete runs, or its available holdings, of the Daily Athenaeum, Morgantown; the Lincoln Republican, Hamlin; the Methodist Advocate, Morgantown Post; Monroe Watchman, Union; Oracle, St. Marys; Daily Review, Sistersville; and the Wheeling Intelligencer (through 1949).



The Library is now receiving 92 weekly and daily State papers, by gift and subscription. Microfilm editions of nine of these papers are also purchased from commercial microfilming companies.

The Virginia and West Virginia reels in the microfilm collection of early state records which was prepared by the Library of Congress, have recently been acquired. These 80 reels of film copies of journals, acts, codes, and documents supply gaps in our holdings which have been impossible otherwise to fill.

Film copies of dissertations and theses of West Virginia interest written in other institutions are acquired, and a liberal policy prevails of filming or lending our holdings of this class.

Microfilm or photostat copies of most archival and manuscript items, maps, broadsides, and non-copyrighted printed materials will be supplied at a nominal charge.

Dr. O. D. Lambert of the Library staff, acting as field agent for the Collection, travels several thousand miles each year in the State ferreting out and acquiring gifts of manuscripts, books, and newspapers. Each section of the State is visited. Almost without exception our manuscript holdings have been acquired through gift.

Manuscripts, photographs, books, newspapers, and institutional records have ever been victims of flood and fire and insects. But an ever greater hazard is developing. That is the urbanization of family life and the ever-larger organization of corporate enterprise. Family papers and photographs rested well and undisturbed in twelve-room farm homes, through one generation on another. But five-room prefabs barely have space for "necessities." The individual entrepreneur is

is being replaced by chains of stores, and the 19th century local business enterprise is giving way to outside ownership and control. This may be our last chance to preserve the record of where and how and why our economic and social life developed in the earlier years.

#### A Plea To Libraries

While this sketch has reviewed some of the holdings and services of the West Virginia Collection, may we also make it a plea to librarians at the local and county level for leads to possible sources of manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, pamphlets or other West Virginiana. We are not in competition with other libraries or manuscript depositories. Family papers and records created over a long period of time in a community or county are often more accessible and useful if they are retained, safely housed, and made available locally. But if housing and servicing facilities for any collection are not available, or if for any reason an offered collection is beyond the scope of your library, the University Library will be glad for the opportunity to accept it. A letter (or a collect phone call if the trash truck is at the door) will always bring a ready response on our part.

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#### PRIZE HANDBOOK

A handbook prepared by the West Liberty State College Library has been designated as one of the best in the nation. "Baffled", a guide to the use of the library for West Liberty students, was listed as one of the nine especially good new college handbooks by Helen T. Geer in the January American Library Association Bulletin.

Mrs. Vivian R. Boughter, West Liberty's librarian, wrote and compiled the handbook, with the assistance of John E. Warner, assistant librarian, and student assistants.

WEST VIRGINIA IMPRINTS AND AUTHORS 1954

Most of us have discovered--often to our sorrow--that it is all but impossible to determine just what titles have been published in West Virginia in a given period of time. The Department of Archives and History's Short Title Check List of West Virginia State Publications does give a fairly complete listing of state documents. However, there is no comparable guide to trade and privately-printed titles. To obtain even a fair sample of such titles often requires an inordinate expenditure of time plus considerable good luck. Unfortunately, both time and good fortune are in limited supply.

It is hoped that the following list of West Virginia imprints for 1954 will be of assistance to both librarians and their patrons. It was compiled at

West Virginia University by the staffs of the Reference Department and the W. Va. Collection. No attempt was made to include the following classes of material:

- a. State documents
- b. Annual reports of organizations
- c. Periodical & serial publications

With the exceptions noted above, the list is as complete as the compilers could make it. However, the jungle is so thick and the paths so few that some--perhaps many--titles were almost certainly overlooked. The compilers would be most grateful for help. Anyone who can supply additional entries is urged most strongly to send them to the Editor. They will be published in a future issue of this journal.

Ambler, Charles H.

Waitman Thomas Willey. Huntington, W. Va., Standard Printing and Publishing Co. 1954. 282p.

Anglin, Robert A.

Enrollment trends at West Virginia State College. Institute, W. Va. 1954. 30p.

Ashburn, Robert R. and Brawner, James P.

A study of the college attendance and scholastic standing of graduates of West Virginia high schools, class of 1954, and of the freshman class of West Virginia University, 1953-54. Morgantown, The University. 1954. 14p. (processed)

Ball, Arthur

Voices from vale and hill. New York, Exposition Press. 1954. 285p.

Bird, Brandon and Evans, Kay

Hawk watch. New York, Dodd, Mead. 1954. 200p.

Blackhurst, W.

Riders of the flood. New York, Vantage Press. 1954. 198p.

Boette, Marie

Sing West Virginia. Parkersburg, W. Va., Author. 1954.



Bolling, E. A. and Schunhoff, Hugo F.

A report to the people of West Virginia on the education of deaf children and blind children in the schools at Romney and at Institute. 1954 8L (processed)

Broad Run Baptist Church

Broad Run Baptist Church, sesquicentennial anniversary; 1804-1954. Buckhannon. The Buckhannon Record. 1954. n.p.

Broadwater, Beth Ann

Worthwhile fact about West Virginia. Mannington, W. Va., Author. 1954. 3lp.

Campbell, Thomas C.

The bituminous coal freight-rate structure--an economic appraisal. Morgantown. 1954. 47p. (West Virginia University Business and Economic Studies v3:3)

Canady, Herman G.

The psychology of the American Negro. Institute, W. Va., West Virginia State College. 1954. 12p.

Caruso, John A.

The liberators of Mexico. New York, Pagent Press. 1954. 342p.

Chitwood, Oliver P. and others

The United States; from colony to world power, 2nd ed. New York, Van Nostrand. 1954. 893p.

Crisswell, Marianne

Canalino. New York, Pagent Press. 1954. 54p.

Darby, Arleigh L.

The tragedy of errors. New York, Vantage Press. 1954. 111p.

Darby, Erasmus F.

The story of the red-nosed hound of Sugar Tree Hollow; a true folk-tale of Grant District, Wayne County, West Virginia. Chillicothe, Ohio, David Webb. 1954. n.p. (processed)

Elkins, Eugene R.

State fiscal organization in West Virginia. Morgantown. 1954. 6lp. (West Virginia University Bureau for Government Research. Publication #13)

Hanczaryk, Edwin W.

The labor force in West Virginia; a study of its growth and characteristics. Morgantown. 1954. 65p. (West Virginia University Business and Economic Studies v3:4)

Harris, Georgine

The art of homemaking. New York, Pagent Press. 1954. 14lp.



Mayer-Oakes, William J.

The Speidel Site, Ohio County, West Virginia. Moundsville, W. Va., West Virginia Archeological Society. 1954. 30p. (Publication series #2)

Morgantown. Wesley Church

Fiftieth anniversary: 1904-1954. Morgantown. 1954. 11p.

Norona, Delf

Moundsville's mammoth mound. Moundsville, W. Va., West Virginia Archeological Society. 1954. 50p.

Orton, Clayton R.

The agriculture of Liberia. Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office. 1954. 11p.

Ruckman, F. Wilmer and others

A history of Marvin Chapel and community. Mill Point, W. Va., Author. 1954. 36p.

Schroeder, Arnold H.

The trappers and Shawnees on the war path. New York, Pagent Press. 1954. 139p.

Singer, Armand E.

A bibliography of the Don Juan theme; versions and criticism. Morgantown, West Virginia University. 1954. 174p.

Somers, Gerlad G.

Mobility of chemical workers in a coal-mining area. Morgantown. 1954. 4lp. (West Virginia University Business and Economic Studies v3:2)

Stickney, A. B.

Notes from original sources bearing on the probable ancestry of John Pierpont of West Virginia; with comments by the compiler. 1954. 19p. (processed)

Temple, Kenneth L. and Koehler, Walter A.

Drainage from bituminous coal mines. Morgantown. 1954. 35p.

Tower, Ralph

A handbook of small business finance. Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office. 1954. 7lp.

Weir, Ernest T.

Which future, war or peace. Cleveland, Cleveland Engineering Society. 1954. 23p.

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Consequences of 1954 social security amendments. 1954. 30p.

West Virginia University. Bureau of Business Research

Proceedings of a conference on the commercial and economic health of the bituminous coal industry. Morgantown. 1954. 14p. (West Virginia University Business and Economic Studies v3:1)

Wilson, Minter L.

The happy years. Boston, Christopher. 1954. 224p.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings.

Library business of the Association is getting underway for the new year. The Executive Board met January 14 at Parkersburg and spent the day on a full agenda. Considerable progress was made in organizing for the coming year.

The Board voted to accept the invitation from Fairmont for the 1955 Annual Conference. It greatly appreciated the interest and invitations from several other cities.

The Board carefully selected committee members for the various standing committees. In addition, it gave approval for the formation of a number of special committees. These are:

State Legislation Committee: To help the Library Commission with its budget in the Legislature.

Library Extension Committee: To aid in the extension of public library service in West Virginia.

W. Va. Conference on Education Committee: To participate in the State-wide Conference on Education to be held next September.

W.V.L.A. History Committee: Since we are now forty, it seems time to get our history down on paper.

Awards Committee: To secure names of eligible candidates for recognition at the Annual Conference.

Exhibits Committee: To aid in the recruiting of exhibitors and in other work concerning the exhibits.

Resolution Committee: To aid in expressing the Association's appreciation to those in and out of the Association who work to make the Annual Conference a success.

School Librarians Affiliation Committee: To work with a committee of the School Librarians on an acceptable plan of union or affiliation.

There are many more important things to be done. Fortunately, we have many capable people to do them.

Your President sat in on a planning session for the State-wide Conference on Education. Charleston was selected as the place for the Conference and early in September as the time. Dr. Stewart Smith, President of Marshall College, was named program chairman. I will serve on the editing committee under the chairmanship of President Irvin Stewart of the University. It is hoped that the needs of school librarians can be included on the program.

Thanks to the Bethany Conference and to the good work of the membership chairman, we now have 129 personal members and 21 institutional members. Our treasury balance is also good—all of \$1,051.16.

We are well on our way to another good year. "On to Fairmont".

Omar A. Bacon, President  
W.Va. Library Association

W.V.L.A. MEMBERSHIP

Memberships to the West Virginia Library Association are still coming in every day. The number of members is greater this year than it has been for some time. There is still time to join up. If you know fellow librarians who are not members, urge them to support the Association. The membership fee is only \$2.00. Please mail memberships to the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Floyd W. Miller, Box 306, Glenville, West Virginia.



## PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

HUNTINGTON

Library circulation continues to rise in all departments and branches of the Library. The first seven months of this year average 29% above the same period last year. For January the increase was 40% above January a year ago. Milton Branch showed an increase of 84%.

The Downtown Library has installed a telephone switchboard for the building. This new equipment speeds up our phone service to the public and between departments. It also relieves the Circulation Department from answering calls except its own.

The Library has just issued an eleven page mid-year progress report to its three levying bodies. It is primarily statistical in nature.

John Bennett of the staff is developing a comprehensive collection of college catalogs for our Young Peoples Alcove. This Alcove is being developed along the lines of music, vocational materials and general books.

KANAWHA COUNTY

An eight-week music appreciation course is being held in the music room of the Library, under joint sponsorship with the Adult Education Department of the Board of Education. Classes began on February 8 and are held each Tuesday evening. Mrs. Ida B. Hutchison, Charleston pianist, is the leader. The Conductor of the Charleston Symphony, Geoffrey Hobday, is scheduled as guest speaker. The course outlines the history of music from earliest times to the present.

The "Noble Order of Bookworms", the winter reading club of the Boys & Girls Department, is coming along very

nicely. Plans for an end-of-the year badge in the shape of a hornbook are being worked out. To acquaint the children with the meaning of the badge, a display of early children's books will be presented.

During January and February, the Circulation Department showed a display provided by the English-speaking Union. The exhibit featured books on and from the British Isles. It was of particular interest to teen-agers.

MORGANTOWN

Some 85 new borrowers a month in 1954. In 1953 an average of 45 were registered per month. The past year also saw a 13% over-all increase in book circulation. A year ago the juvenile circulation was decreasing, but now it is on the upgrade. Adults account for 61% of the books circulated, and adult borrowing has jumped 16.5% in 1954.

OHIO COUNTY

Mid-winter activities are in full swing at the Ohio County Public Library. The Civic Room is used as a class room for a course in music appreciation taught by Professor Wallis Breman of West Liberty on Monday evenings. Dr. Gilbert, of the same college, teaches his class in Humanities every Tuesday evening. Three classes--two courses--of History are conducted each Wednesday night by Dr. John A. Caruso of the University. The Study Group of the Thursday Music Club has its monthly meeting there. Saturday mornings, once a month, it is filled with school children enjoying a film offered as a free treat by the Library.

The Library has recently received a gift of Projected Books from the Fidelis Circle of King's Daughters.



SOUTH CHARLESTON

The South Charleston Public Library has recently moved into enlarged and improved quarters in the Municipal Recreation Building. A wall has been moved fourteen feet into an adjoining auditorium, giving the library much-needed additional space. The children now have a corner of their own, decorated with large color prints. A new section of catalog and new shelving have been added, and the entire room redecorated in grey and turquoise, with cherry upholstery in the social area.

W. Va. Library Commission

Alpha Regional Library has been chosen by the Regional Library Board as the official name for the first regional library in West Virginia.

At a meeting at the Calhoun County Courthouse on February 18th, the Board chose the name and elected the following officers: Mr. Orton Karickhoff, Spencer, President; Mrs. Nell Hamilton, Grantsville, Secretary; Mrs. Ted Collins, Pennsboro, Treasurer. Other members are Mrs. Hall Maxwell from West Union and Mrs. Eugene Watkins from Ravenswood. Each of the five counties that make up the region—Jackson, Roane, Calhoun, Ritchie and Doddridge—has a representative on the Board.

The regional library began as a demonstration by the West Virginia Library Commission in 1950. In 1953 the participating counties assumed a major portion of the support. Having a name and Regional Board marks another step in its development.

## COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWS

MARSHALL COLLEGE

Marshall College Library has added some 289 old and rare books to its collection since November 1951. Among the most interesting of these are:

Bryan, Daniel. "The Mountain Muse,"  
Comprising Adventures of Daniel  
Boone, 1813.

Lee, Charles. "Memoirs of the Life  
of the Late Charles Lee. 1792.

Pencil, Mark. "The White Sulphur  
Papers on Life at the Springs of  
Western Virginia. 1832.

Gentleman's Magazine. 1731-1868  
(v1-225).

WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Library at West Virginia Tech is gradually becoming the Audio-Visual Center for the College. Equipment formerly housed in various departments is now being centralized. Formerly, each department was responsible for its own equipment and was limited to

its use unless it could borrow from another. Since there was no central record or checking system, this often resulted in considerable delay. The new plan was originally designed as an economy measure. However, it has also resulted in greater use of and better care for the equipment.

A.H.E. SPRING MEETING

The Association of Higher Education will hold its spring meeting from March 31 to April 2 at West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery. The keynote address of the conference will be given by Dr. Alonza F. Myers, Chairman of the Department of Education at New York University.

Mr. Charles E. Butler, Librarian of West Virginia University, will be the speaker for the Library Section. His topic will be: Responsibility of the State University Library to the College Libraries of the State.



## WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

-11-

At the Executive Board meeting of the West Virginia Library Association held in Charleston in the spring of 1954, I recommended to the Board that the Library Association undertake a program to recognize citizens of the State of West Virginia who had made or were making some contribution to fields in which the Library Association was either interested or concerned, or both. The discussion was carried on for some time as to what these interests or concerns might be, and we found a rather greater number than we had thought might exist. It was, however, decided that this year we (the Executive Board) would think in terms of three: a library trustee, an author, and a member of the Association.

There were a number of names submitted for each of the three areas. Upon review, we named three individuals and invited them to come to the West Virginia Library Association meeting in Bethany and be with us on the night of October 23, 1954. Recognition medals were presented to Mr. Perry Emmet O'Brien, Attorney-at-Law, Ripley, West Virginia, for his work as a Library Trustee, to Mr. Edgar B. Sims, Auditor of the State of West Virginia, for his work in compiling and editing "Sims Index," and to Miss Ethel Green, formerly Librarian of the Clarksburg Public Library, for her life-long devotion to libraries and librarianship.

The citations, which follow, were read by the President of the West Virginia Library Association, and the medals were presented by Mr. Mumford, President of the American Library Association. It is hoped that presentations will be made each year, but it must be pointed out that the Executive Board of 1953-54 did not intend to set any pattern of selection or limit in any way areas which some other Board might choose to recognize. There is also no suggestion that there is anything sacred in the number "three". Future Boards may select as many or as few recipients as they may deem proper.

E. Hugh Behymer

Perry Emmet O'Brien, from Ripley, native West Virginian, graduate of the College of Law of West Virginia University, President of the Jackson County Library Board:

When in 1950 the opportunity came for Jackson County to participate in the West Virginia Library Commission's regional library demonstration program, you became a vigorous leader in the successful attempt to bring the library into the County and you were appointed to its Board of Trustees.

Your service on the Board has been of profound and vital importance in preserving the library and elevating it to its present position of security and public esteem. As a leader, you have displayed a determination and faith that has provided a constant stimulation to renewed effort. As a spokesman, you have guided the library program with consummate skill through a series of crises and reversals which would have brought a lesser person to despair. As an advisor, your sound views on public library goals and of the means to achieve them in West Virginia have had great influence throughout this state.

There is no time to catalog your main attributes and abilities. Let it be said merely that the largeness of your outlook is equalled only by the durability of your sense of humor.

West Virginia's first regional library is deeply indebted to the selfless efforts of many trustees. The West Virginia Library Association recognizes that the adequacy of public library service everywhere depends heavily on the vitality of the library trustee, and it has selected you, Mr. O'Brien, to receive its first trustee award because your distinguished contribution fulfills the highest concept of that trusteeship.



Edgar B. Sims, a native of the State of West Virginia, teacher, school superintendent and now Auditor of the State of West Virginia:

A library is a storehouse of knowledge, a repository of books, and the agency responsible for the collection, preservation, and distribution of the printed word. Without the makers of books, the library would indeed be a poor place. Perhaps no more important book can be preserved than that book which records the history or some part of the history of our country. One such book is this which I now hold:

"Sims Index to Land Grants in West Virginia" published by the State of West Virginia, 1952, compiled and edited by Edgar B. Sims. This book is an index to the records in the Auditor's Office to the land grants in West Virginia. The volume is divided in two parts: Part 1 is concerned with land grants made by Lord Fairfax and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Part 2 lists the land grants made by the State of West Virginia under its first constitution during the years 1862 to 1872. In both parts there are county divisions and under each county there is a list of grantees arranged in alphabetical order by name. There is an index which shows where in the auditor's records the grants may be found.

This book takes its place on our shelves as a part of the history of the State of West Virginia. We are indebted to Mr. Sims for the work which he has done on this publication, and we hereby tender him this symbol of our thanks.

It is our hope, Mr. Sims, that having met with us here in the peace and dignity of this academic institution and in the company of those of us who strive to extend the power of the printed word, you will work with us to interest every citizen of this State in the development of an active program of free libraries throughout the State, books easily available to every citizen, and a network of splendid academic libraries serving the needs of our students and their teachers.

Ethel Green, native West Virginian, gentlewoman, librarian:

Librarianship is an honored profession. It is respected and held in esteem because it has attracted to it individuals who have served it with dignity, devotion, and competence. Tonight the West Virginia Library Association takes great pride in honoring one of its own.

Forty years ago a little band of intrepid and courageous librarians met together and established the West Virginia Library Association. Miss Ethel Green was one of these and thus she is here as a member of this Association which pledged itself then as it does now to the development of libraries and an interest in books and reading.

You have spent your entire life in the library. It is a great tribute to our profession that you have done so. You have served as the librarian of our State Department of Archives and History, in the Library of the City of Boston Bar Association, in the Library of the Massachusetts State College, and in the Library at Yale University. In 1938 you came back to West Virginia as the Librarian of the Clarksburg Public Library and you served your city, your county, and your state in that capacity until June 30, 1954, when the Board of the Clarksburg Public Library regretfully accepted your resignation.

The Board wrote of you: "Her devotion to her duties, her cheery smile, her skill in locating references requested by patrons, and her administrative ability have endeared her to all who visited the Library or availed themselves of its many services and facilities... In her work at the Clarksburg Public Library, Miss Green was meticulously accurate and particular in all things, she was efficient, courteous, and always friendly and considerate toward those who visited the Library or requested her assistance in any matter."

We say those things to you, Miss Green, for the services you have rendered this Association and through it to the people of West Virginia. You have endeared yourself to us, and it is with more than the ordinary exchange of pleasantries that we greet you here. With this small token goes the personal respect, gratitude and love of every member of this Association.